

The following is a canned email from Free Press, but my feelings about this matter are reflected very accurately in this statement. It seems dangerous to democracy for a large and powerful broadcaster to act in this manner. We are already seeing the effect of media consolidation in radio broadcasting, where one owner (ClearChannel) has taken over more and more of our public airwaves in the recent past; if this is permitted to take place, our democracy will have lost one more free voice.

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.